

THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON.

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1906

CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

For order to avoid delays on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Circulation or Business Departments, according to their purpose.

Quick Justice for Underpaid Teachers.

An insidious and peculiarly dangerous form of opposition to the increase of salaries of the public school teachers has developed. The advocates of a revolutionary reorganization of the local school system and of the board of education have posed as the friends of the teachers, and have competed in protestations of solicitude for their welfare and of a fervent desire to enlarge their inadequate salaries.

It is now beginning to appear, however, that some of the reorganizers are merely masquerading as advocates of increased salaries for the teachers. Stirred by the Star's urgent appeal that the disputed reorganization proposals be postponed until next session, and that everybody in favor of increasing the teachers' salaries unite and concentrate efforts immediately to secure this increase, this opposition now declares that the local public schools already cost too much money, and that the underpaid teachers must wait for reasonably adequate salaries until the money can be saved from other school items of appropriation, as by largely discounting free tuition, by discharging some of the special teachers and supervising principals, by building a small number of large school houses in place of the more numerous existing small school houses, the latter then to be sold, and by cutting off the \$500 per annum paid to members of the board of education.

To postpone increase of teachers' salaries on this pretext is clearly to deny the increase altogether. Only through united action, unembarrassed by any hotly disputed contentions, can the salary increase be accomplished in the short time remaining of this session.

If the money necessary for such increases is not to be obtained except at the expense of the discharge of other teachers and supervisors, the cutting down of free textbooks, the sale of some existing school buildings and the rebuilding of new and larger structures in lieu thereof, it will not, of course, be secured at any other session. It is well, however, that the public school teachers should understand this dangerous form of opposition to their increased salary movement. An additional reason is thereby supplied for the quick and strong combination of all sincere workers in behalf of the underpaid teachers.

Organized Labor in Politics.

Organized labor, we are told, intends to catch both parties on the subject of labor legislation, and throw its strength to the one promising a compliance with its wishes. That is all very well, but let us not forget that labor is powerless in the strongholds of democracy. What can labor do in the south, where it has no organizations of consequence, and no choice of parties? There is but one party in the south. As matters now stand, labor will dash itself in vain against the democracy in that section. For an instance, John Sharp Williams, who is responsible for the minority membership of the House committee on labor, can snap his fingers in Mr. Gompers' face. Only death can deprive him of election to the next House, or of the speaker's chair of that body if the democrats control it.

It is in the debatable sections of the country that labor will have its chance, and there is where the bidding for its vote will take place. In those sections there are two parties, and the republicans will be obliged to watch the color line. Gompers' strength is there, and if, as Mr. Gompers threatens, it is going to take a hand in the game, we may see some surprises next fall. Unlike Mr. Williams, Mr. Cannon, who is responsible for the majority membership of the House committee on labor, may find organized labor a factor against him.

The executive council of the Federation of Labor at its session Saturday said this:

"We reaffirm as one of the cardinal principles of the trade union movement that the working people must unite and organizationally of creed, color, sex, nationality or political party."

Mark the word "color." Organized labor has itself hitherto drawn the color line. Does it now favor the organization of colored laborers for political purposes? And will it co-operate with them for political ends? If so it can hope for help from that source only in the debatable sections; and there again the republicans may suffer. The negro is not a voter in the South, and is not likely to be in this generation. He is barred from the polls, either by state constitutions, or by party arrangements which operate to bar him.

Labor as a distinct factor in our politics means a good deal, but the details of its activities have yet to be worked out. It is the age of jolly, and jolly is the word. When the bidding begins it is certain to be high—much higher than performances are possible. The English prime minister is now wrestling with some of his bids for labor votes last fall.

Mr. Rockefeller's illness should not be aggravated by any fear that H. H. Rogers will make any unguarded speeches on the witness stand. Tom Lawson will vouch for the fact that Mr. Rogers is not that kind of a man.

Mr. Jerome of New York is thoroughly convinced that a great many people fail to appreciate a first-class district attorney when they get him.

The time when a prominent man could wait for a scandal to "blow over" has gone by in the history of this country.

Last Week of the Coal Agreements.

One week now remains for the coal miners and operators in both the bituminous and anthracite fields to get together for a continuation of the existing agreements. The negotiations for adjustment are at present in a very complicated condition, especially in the soft-coal region, where there is a possibility of a strike weakened by defections from Mitchell's leadership. Indeed, the Indianapolis convention has thus far proved decidedly unsatisfactory to all sides, having developed chiefly that there is a split of faction within the ranks of both union and operators. But there is no hope that a strike order would be obeyed by a sufficient number to cause a tremendous effect upon the industrial world, despite the fact that the coal stocks of the larger manufacturing corporations have accumulated during the past few months.

The negotiations in the anthracite field have halted at the stage of the operators' proposal of a further conference. The engagements of Mitchell and his lieutenants in Indianapolis have prevented immediate acceptance of this proposal, and it is now expected that a meeting will be held in

New York before the end of the week. If there is no agreement, a strike order will doubtless issue, to take effect next Monday morning.

Considering the enormous losses certain to result from a strike of the coal miners in either field, and especially in both fields simultaneously, it is a bitter reflection that the fate of a multitude of people now rests with a very few men, who are actuated to all appearances solely by selfish considerations and without regard for the public welfare. The operators claim that they are restating the demands of the hard-coal miners because they are not willing to burden the consumers of anthracite with the added cost of fuel which would be caused by the granting of those demands. Remembering the experiences of 1902, when the public paid enormously and suffered severely in consequence of the prolonged strike, it remains to be seen whether the operators will be more considerate of the consumers by yielding something to insure peace or refusing all, and thereby possibly precipitating a strike. On the other hand, the miners' leaders have it in their power to order the strike whether the operators offer a compromise or not. They will doubtless claim in this case that they are charged with a special responsibility which is greater than the general responsibility involved in thrusting the coal-using public into a condition of loss and hardship.

Unfortunately no automatic process of adjustment is available for the solution of such problems to prevent a calamity like this now threatened. A compulsory arbitration provision of law has long been urgently needed in this country, to be invoked in the name of the public at a critical juncture in the relations of workers and employers. Another coal strike, resulting from the stubborn insistence of the two sides to this controversy, will go far toward persuading the people that such a system must be provided.

Mexico as a Refuge.

The Mexican Herald, turning its eyes Americanward, says things. Listen:

"A Hearst campaign for the presidency will make the Bryan campaign seem almost a laughing matter. The time is ripe for Hearst than it was for Bryan, for the people are even more eager for revolt than in 1896 and 1900. And we will venture no longer exists here; monetary reform has become a fixed fact; the traditional respect for property is unchallenged by any party or faction, and the government is strong and thoroughly conservative. Bryan in 1896 frightened some people into crossing the Rio Grande. A socialistic campaign up north in 1906 would send hundreds of men of wealth across the border where one came ten years ago."

The Herald puts too low an appraisal on the American spirit. That spirit does not run away in a pinch, but has met, and conquered, greater perils than socialism. When slavery brought on civil war the great property interests here stood their ground and helped to save the government. When the democratic party, improving an opportunity to play upon discontent, carried the day in 1892 on a platform proclaiming death to protection, the property interests, then as now socked in protection, did not run away, but helped, with democratic assistance, to unmask and defeat the movement in Congress, and later at the polls. And in 1896 and 1900, when the public credit was menaced, like Texas, were so active as the property interests. They cast no weather eye in any direction for a refuge.

It may be, as the Herald suggests, that the campaign of 1908 will make the Bryan campaign appear tame and conservative by comparison. The discontent growing out of our abundance is a new wrinkle with us, and in certain sections it is a menacing one. But the American people will meet that as they have met all other forms of discontent—by argument, by organization, and by numbers. Property is safe in America—safer in fact than human life and socialism, properly so-called—will dash itself in vain against that solid rock. For property represents not alone the enormous accumulations of the rich, but the savings in modest homes and bank deposits of great numbers of wage-earners. Those who strike at individualism in our affairs strike at the foundation of the government.

It is good to hear from this representative newspaper that Mexico is prosperous, and hospitable toward capital. May she continue so for her own good. But she should not count on having her prosperity augmented by rich Americans fleeing from danger at home. Men of such spirit are few, and of too little force to count anywhere. The greatest of the governmental problems are going to be worked out in this country, and by the people who have made the country what it is. We like Mexico as a neighbor, but are not counting on her as a refuge.

Pass the Tariff Bill.

The Philippine tariff bill, it is to be hoped, is not dead, but just sleeping. A too protracted snooze should not be allowed. As soon as the railroad rate bill is out of the way in the Senate Mr. Lodge should make another effort to get the bill before the Senate. It is the full Senate after debate which should dispose of the question, and not a small committee. Public sentiment favors the measure. Even in Connecticut, where the tobacco interests managed to influence the two senators from that state adversely to the bill, the press has spoken for it, and shown its worth and justice. It is not a political question, but strictly one of business founded on fair dealing and an implied obligation. And what will not injure us, but will so greatly benefit people we have in our power under our flag, should be readily granted. If the Senate refuses now the matter will be presented to the next Congress.

The railway rate discussion may go on until the middle of May or later. By that time the subject should either be perfectly clear or so densely complicated that the futility of further comment will be apparent.

The recent present to Speaker Cannon from a Massachusetts man will cause some of the members to look upon silk suspenders as the raiment of autocratic power, just as tyrant purple used to be.

The experiments in arctic regions with automobiles will at least give the chauffeurs a chance to let out their surplus speed as circumstances permit without risk of encounter with the constable.

Mr. W. J. Bryan has been pointing out the mistakes of Confucius. Mr. Bryan has been criticised himself so much that there must be a certain satisfaction in getting back at somebody.

Mayor Dunne of Chicago sees a chance for government ownership of traction lines. The financial world of Chicago is full of mirages.

Mr. H. H. Rogers has managed to get some action from the positive instead of the negative pole of his memory.

Mayor McCarthy.

Mayor McCarthy of Richmond puts the blame for the impression created by his flag speech on the stenographer. Well, never mind. The point is that neither the city of Richmond, nor the state of Virginia, should be held responsible for the speech, whatever its terms were, and that it would be most unjust to permit it to influence sentiment

adversely anywhere about the Jamestown exposition. Virginia like her sister states, lives under the old flag, fought for it in the war with Spain, and would fight for it again. Its devotion is not dependent on an appropriation, but as an appropriation is now in order, and well deserved, the money should be voted, whether the appeal is to Congress, or to a state legislature. The war is over; and it here and there an official expresses himself a little carelessly about things patriotic we may be sure that he speaks only for himself.

Travel to Europe is exceptionally heavy. In justice it should be noted that a great many people are going over to see the sights and improve their minds, and not because they have financial investigations on hand.

Russia must admit that it is hard to secure an absolutely frank expression of public opinion at the polls when a man whose vote dispenses some official is liable to be sent to Siberia.

If District Attorney Jerome and Commissioner Bingham should ever find occasion to criticize each other, New York would see a highly vigorous and interesting encounter.

Prince Nicholas of Montenegro got \$200,000 from Austria by cashing bogus post office orders. Men in America have been sent to Moundville for less than that.

Of course Mr. Hepburn will hardly go so far as to restrict the Congressional Library's attention to the three elementary "r's"—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic."

SHOOTING STARS.

Thinking It Over.

"I suppose you are ready to stand between the public and the railroads?" "I don't know," answered Senator Sorghum, thoughtfully. "What is the use of deliberately getting caught in a collision?"

A Well Intended Remark.

"That tenor gets two thousand dollars for every performance," said the musician. "He is indeed a great singer." "He's better than that," answered Mr. Cumrox. "He's a good business man."

A Program.

This program frequent both talk and action. Some speeches; after that, some talk. And then, some conversation.

With a Sigh.

"Your husband has a great many friends," said the visitor. "Yes," answered young Mrs. Torkins, with a sigh. "Charley has a great many friends; but they are the kind who give tips on the races."

"When a man gets too much money he needs for virtuous, honest and clothes," said Uncle Eben. "He's either got to be mighty sensible or mighty light-minded to fully enjoy the balance."

A Plea.

Speak gently to the millionaire. Do not be unkind! You know he has a lot of care. And trouble on his mind. He cannot see the humor which inspired your merry chaff. He's been so busy getting rich. He hasn't time to laugh. He has to labor night and day. Our college folk to tell. The way to make their wisdom pay. And also how to spell. Don't jeer with satiric intent. The wealth that brings him fame. It may have been a noble quest. For which he's not to blame.

College Lawlessness.

From the New York Evening Post. Another folly of the American college, for which its faculties are primarily responsible, is the retention in this enlightened day of the medieval idea that the college community is not amenable to the law. An ordinary citizen could not kick in another citizen's door without serious danger of being shot, under the legal right of self-defense, or arrested and punished in the courts. As between students in American college buildings, such action may be indulged in with almost complete impunity. The student is not encouraged by the faculty to maintain his own rights, and it is rare that the college authorities in such a case will go any farther than to demand repair of the damage to property. The offense against the laws of the state is absolutely ignored. It is only in colleges situated in the larger cities, where outside pressure is heavier, that college authorities have shown the slightest tendency to invoke the aid of the authorities against student lawlessness.

Contempt of the Supreme Court.

From the Chicago Post. A rabble that indulges in lynching is not likely to distinguish between one court and another. The only tribunal it knows is its own passion. But there is likely to be some educating done in Chattanooga. In that city by no means remote or obscure locality—a mob has just intervened between a prisoner and the Supreme Court of the United States. A prisoner was under sentence of death and a stay had been granted by Justice Harlan. As this proceeding did not meet the approval of certain citizens of Chattanooga, a mob was organized and summarily annulled by the capture and informal execution of the negro. The participants in this act are guilty of murder and of contempt of court.

The Human Hog.

From the Richmond Journal. The man who thinks of nothing but making money may not be a bad sort of fellow, but that other people can think of nobler purposes. Like the pig, with its snout so deep in the trough that its eyes are buried in the slop, its mind is so full of the business of getting that it has no room for anything else. But with man it is different; he has a pig's mind but he can acquire it. He has the best there is in him. By will he renounces mankind and debases himself to the level of the animal. He spills red blood, but he murders a man to make a pig. It is the basest of suicides, and perhaps the commonest.

Might Buy William Out.

From the Atlanta Constitution. Kaiser Wilhelm objects to having Germany's first world wars of carried off by the great American banker. If the Kaiser makes that great art collector, J. Pierpont Morgan, mad he may send his agents over and buy up the German empire.

Will Be Able to Get Along.

From the Troy Record. It is reported that young Waldorf Astor, who is about to wed, will be given \$100,000 a year by his father, besides a wedding gift of \$50,000. By strict economy for the couple ought to be able to live in a flat and keep at least one servant on that amount, as the being able to have the washing done outside of the house.

Bingham Leads.

From the Springfield Union. In the talking race on the police question Commissioner Bingham of New York at last accounts was a dozen laps ahead of the Algebras delegates.

Deuel!

Justice Deuel of New York has resigned from the bar association. There remains now only the possibility of showing an equal consideration for the bar.

He Worked Them.

From the Birmingham News. The report that Count Castellane knows nothing about work is a mistake. He worked the Gould estate almost to a finish.

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